

Regarding HB 1178

January 14, 2025

My name is Maci Behm. I am a high school social studies teacher in Beulah, North Dakota. Please give this bill a do pass recommendation. As a government teacher, I stress to my students the importance of participating in the government. We spend a lot of class time discussing different ways that students can participate such as voting and being knowledgeable about candidates and issues. As a class we cover voting rights and how hard Americans have worked throughout history to gain the right to vote. Most high school seniors taking a government class understand the importance of voting. Many are excited to vote for the first time during their senior year. North Dakota Civics and Government Benchmark C.6_12.4.5 states students should demonstrate active participation in civic life. I believe that allowing students to use a small part of their school day for voting provides students with the opportunity to reach that benchmark.